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25 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, D/E/RR

FROM :

25X1A9a

SUBJECT :

Report on Survey of CG/COCOM/CHINCOM Documents
for Purposes of Downgrading

In connection with the proposed downgrading of CG/COCOM/CHINCOM documents from Secret to Confidential, I submit the following findings and recommendations for your consideration.

A. Definition of Intelligence Material

In consultation with Ch/C/RR, the following criteria have been established for purposes of this survey: (1) Such documents are considered to incorporate intelligence of Secret classification if they include information on: Soviet bloc demand/supply position in specific goods and services; strategic significance of specific goods or services as applicable to Soviet needs; East-West trade (except as provided below); and intelligence sources, methods and application, particularly with respect to specific problems in the export control field. (2) Such documents are considered to incorporate intelligence of not higher than Confidential classification when they are concerned solely or principally with: commodity definitions and quota determinations; general expressions of PC attitudes on various control problems and review of control systems; statistics on trade in specific commodities which provide only quantity, volume and unit measurements; and procedural and administrative matters.

B. Description of Document Categories

1. Consultative Group Papers - Records of CG meeting which cover COCOM and CHINCOM reports, reviews of control systems, trade policy and related matters.

2. COCOM Documents - Record of discussions on a variety of subjects such as statistics, enforcement, exceptions, IC/DV, ships and shipping, and trade agreements; negotiations on the strategic ratings of individual items on the several control lists; and periodic reports by the Chairman of COCOM to the Consultative Group.

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3. COCOM Statistics (S Series) - Information in statistical form on export of strategic commodities by PC's to Eastern Europe, China, Austria and Finland. Provided are item numbers, item descriptions, destination of exports, and weight and value of commodities.
4. COCOM Secretariat Documents (D Series) - This series contains control lists of documents issued by the Secretariat.
5. COCOM Secretariat Papers - These papers are prepared to bring outstanding and unresolved problems to the attention of delegates. A typical paper draws attention to the "unfortunate state of affairs in the matter of statistical reporting."
6. COCOM Sub-C Series - This series transmits to COCOM reports of the several COCOM Subcommittees, e.g., the Subcommittee on Definitions and Interpretation. (Note: reports of technical working groups are found in this and in the COCOM Document Series and concern specific categories of controlled items).
7. CHINCOM Documents - Included in this series are records of discussions on various subjects within the competence of CHINCOM. Typical subjects are consideration of the several China lists (and commodity categories therein), shipping and bunkering controls, exception policy and exchange of information.
8. CHINCOM Statistics (CH-S Series) - Provides statistical information on the value of licenses issued each month by PC authorities covering export of controlled commodities to China, North Korea, Hong Kong and Macao.
9. CHINCOM Secretariat Papers - This series summarizes, for the benefit of delegates, earlier papers and discussions on particular problems. It provides lists of document numbers pertaining to discussions on specified controlled items.
10. CHINCOM Sub-C Series - The several technical working groups of CHINCOM transmit their findings on specific commodities (e.g., instruments, iron and steel products) in this series.

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C. Recommendations for Further Processing of Documents

Explanatory note

The following determinations and recommendations are based on an analysis of those documents in series indicated available to the EXCON Reference Desk. Only those documents dated prior to 1 January 1955 have been studied for purposes of this project since no cutoff date for the downgrading project has been announced by COCOM. As of 15 December 1954, Paris reported that USDEL would seek the establishment of a working group to develop details of the new COCOM classification system. There have been no subsequent reports on this proposed working group.

An effort is being made to compile a complete numerical listing of all CG/COCOM/CHINCOM documents in the several series against which our card file of available documents can be checked. Preparation of this list will reveal the numbers of those documents which are not at this time available to the Desk. For sampling purposes, such a list is not absolutely required, but is useful in eliminating several of the series (in which there are few documents) from the survey.

This survey has been in two phases: (a) recommendation for downgrading of several categories of documents based on inspection of typical documents in terms of established criteria; and (b) a 10 percent sampling of COCOM Documents, CHINCOM Documents, and COCOM Sub-C Series.

Recommendations

a) It is recommended that the following categories of documents be downgraded from Secret to Confidential since they do not contain intelligence of Secret Classification as defined above:

1. COCOM Statistics (S Series) - 475 documents through 30 December 1954, most of which available to Desk.
2. COCOM Secretariat Papers - 46 documents of which 8 are available to Desk.
3. ^{Indexes (D Series)} COCOM Secretariat Documents - 9 documents available to Desk. ~~(C Series)~~
4. CHINCOM Statistics (CH-S Series) - 20 documents, all available to Desk.
5. CHINCOM Secretariat Papers - 13 documents of which 11 are available to Desk.

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b) It is recommended that action as indicated be taken on the following categories of documents:

1. Consultative Group Papers - 14 documents, 10 of which are available to Desk. Downgrade number 4,5,7,8,10,11,14.
2. CHINCOM Sub-C Series - 9 documents available to Desk. Of 1953 issuances, downgrade numbers 5,6,7. Of 1954 issuances downgrade number 1 (only document thus far received.)

c) A ten percent sample of the following categories has been taken and further processing action, as indicated, is recommended:

1. COCOM Documents - 1833 documents have been issued through 23 December 1954. Of the 1 thru 500 series, only 151 documents are available to the Desk. Of the 501 thru 1833 series, 1121 documents are available. Of 150 documents sampled, 19 should retain Secret classification on basis of criteria established. Two hours time was required to scan these 150 documents. On this basis it is estimated that some 24 manhours, or three full working days, would be required to scan the remaining documents. Allowance must be made, however, for time required to either assemble documents not now available in this Agency or to view them in other agency files.
2. CHINCOM Documents - 330 out of 340 documents issued are available to the Desk. Of 33 documents sampled, 10 should retain Secret classification. It is estimated that 4 manhours would be required to scan the remaining documents.
3. COCOM Sub-C Series - 100 out of 120 documents issued are available. Of 20 documents sampled, 4 should retain Secret classification. It is estimated that 2 manhours would be required to scan the remaining documents.

On the basis of this sampling, not less than 5 working days of one analyst (GS-12 or above), in addition to full-time employment of one GS-5 clerk-typist, will be required to complete this survey and to prepare a list of those documents which cannot be downgraded.

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d) Inasmuch as it appears that CIA cannot concur in an across-the-board downgrading of these documents, it is further recommended that:

1. The results of this survey be made known to Ch/C and to appropriate levels of other elements, specifically OCB, PI, and SO.
2. FOA/MDAC and State be advised of the results of the survey.
3. Approval of higher authority be obtained for use of criteria established for this survey and for methodology employed in determining the classification of documents recommended for downgrading.
4. Further D/E responsibility in this project be determined.

JAG:gg

(25 January 1955)

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